

Daniel P. Vrakas
County Executive



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The National Children's Study receives federal funding to move forward
in Waukesha County**

*Waukesha families will help researchers learn how to improve the
health of children across the nation.*

WAUKESHA, Wis (3-20-07) Recently appropriated funds from Congress for 2007 will allow The National Children's Study to move forward in Waukesha County. The National Children's Study is a long-term research project that will examine environmental influences on children's health and development in order to improve the health and well-being of children nationwide. Waukesha County is one of seven locations selected to serve as a vanguard study location.

The study will include approximately 100,000 children nationwide with the goal of producing information of unprecedented value for scientists, health professionals and families around issues such as obesity, diabetes, physical development, injuries, asthma, pregnancy-related outcomes, child development and mental health.

Researchers will ask families from selected neighborhoods in Waukesha County to join the study. The goal is to follow about 1,250 children in Waukesha County from before birth to age 21. These families will help researchers learn how to improve the health of children across the nation.

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National Children's Study

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"I am pleased that Congress realized the importance of this health study and decided to fund it so that researchers from our two nationally ranked medical schools can continue their exceptional work," said Waukesha County Executive Dan Vrakas. "I hope that residents who are recruited for the study will remain committed to it. This is a wonderful opportunity for Waukesha County to provide invaluable data that will be used to improve children's health nationwide."

A consortium of Wisconsin institutions will conduct the study in Waukesha County. These include: University of Wisconsin-Madison, Medical College of Wisconsin, Children's Research Institute, Marquette University, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Children's Service Society of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services and the National Opinion Research Center (affiliated with the University of Chicago). Many Waukesha County health and human service agencies are involved in planning for the study.

Lead investigators for the project in Waukesha County are: Christine Cronk, Associate Professor, Medical College of Wisconsin, and Maureen Durkin, Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison. A Community Advisory Board consisting of Waukesha County residents provides a community perspective for the study. Advisory Board members include: Kristin Agenten, Mary Anderson, Megan Anderson, Melanie Correa, Kathy Duffek, David Fay, MD, Kathy Hartke, MD, Phil Hollar, Marcia Jante, Mary Jensen, Murray Katcher, MD, Missy Kueht-Becker, Carol Lombardi, Don Maurer, Tim Nolan, Stephanie Riesch, Brenda Rios, Aileen Ryan-Lofy, David Schmidt, Tom Sheedy, MD, Barb Syrianen, Meghan Sprager and Ralph Zick.

For more information about the National Children's Study, visit www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov.

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